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Cheatham, Kitty

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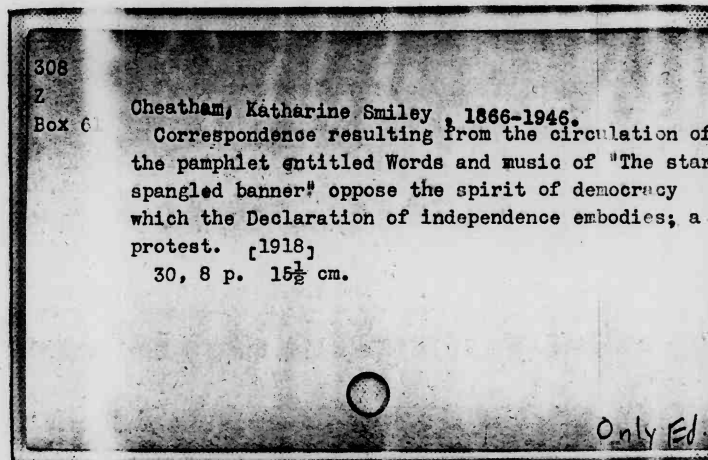
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**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Resulting from the Circulation**

**of the**

**PAMPHLET ENTITLED**

**WORDS AND MUSIC OF**

**"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"**

**OPPOSE THE**

**SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY**

**WHICH THE**

**DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

**EMBODIES**

**A PROTEST**

**By KITTY CHEATHAM**

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by  
Kitty Cheatham.

Jan. 31, 1919 HET

## CORRESPONDENCE

Resulting from the Circulation of the Pamphlet  
Entitled

Words and Music of "The Star-Spangled Banner"  
Oppose the Spirit of Democracy which the  
Declaration of Independence Embodies

274 Madison Avenue,  
New York City.

August 15, 1918.

Dear Mr. F...:—\*

I am impelled to send you the enclosed pamphlet, though its substance matter is the antithesis of the sentiments, which I heard you express recently at Columbia College. I am sure, however, you cannot fail to feel the sincerity of my convictions, as well as the logic of my statements. I have gratefully and voluntarily entered the arena of conflict, as I know the standard—or Principle—for which I am fighting—the allness of Love and the *ultimate revelation* of the brotherhood of man. I do not mean the carnal man and his present activities, which are only too apparent in this world-war, with its pitiable exhibition of Cain again slaying his brother, but I refer to God's man, made in "His own image and likeness," who is coming forth in these latter days. This is the ideal Christ man, whom Christ Jesus represented and exemplified in his victory over the qualities of the carnal mind.

These evil thoughts are externalizing themselves in the universal war. Paul describes

\*The recipient of this letter is the Editor of a well-known musical journal.

the carnal man as ultimating in death, the result of "idolatry . . . hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness . . . and such like" (Galatians 5:20, 21). I shall not sheathe my sword—the sword of Truth, the word of God—until this battle between good and evil, right and wrong, is won.

Christ Jesus proved the potency of truth by his mighty works, by his stern denunciation of the qualities of Pharisaism, hypocrisy, animality, greed, and all that would oppose the operation of the immutable law of Truth and Love, that he obeyed and demonstrated. He did not cease using this mighty word of God until he had finished his fight. Then followed his blessed benediction, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you" (John 14:27). He demonstrated the eternal life with which God endowed man. He proved that his "weapons . . . are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (II Corinthians 10:4)—evil in all its forms.

The Christian soldiers today who have enlisted in the army of Christ will fight on to final victory. The "prince of this world"—evil thoughts and evil thinkers, for the two cannot be separated—cannot terrify or intimidate Truth's standard-bearers, nor can they hush the voice of God's representatives, who say with Gamaliel, "If this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to naught; but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God" (Acts 5:38, 39). Centuries of material history have never altered this omnipotent unchanging law of truth and justice.

I know my mission as Joan of Arc knew hers, and like her I will fight to keep the standard of my beloved country eternally uplifted. This is the final battle between the forces of good and evil. Victory is imminent for those who understand the spiritual import of this great hour, and who are willing to stand in the front

ranks of the *mental trenches*, panoplied in an invulnerable armor of spiritual understanding. These soldiers, on the battlefield of Christ, are proving, as did Daniel, the allness of Love and the impotence of the animal qualities of the carnal mind, that would destroy God's ambassadors.

I note, with joy, these words of General Pershing to his soldiers in today's "Times:"

You have the unconquerable spirit of men who fight for their ideals . . . hardships will be your lot, but trust in God will give you comfort . . . temptations will befall you, but the teachings of the Saviour will give you strength. Let your valor as a soldier and your conduct as a man be an inspiration to your comrades and an honor to your country.

On the editorial page of this same issue of the "Times" I also read these lines—the concluding ones in a poem entitled, "More Light," by Eleanor Van Allen Furman:

O light of love of God, shine clear and true!

O love of gentle Nazarene for man, lead firmly on!

More light! more light, through the dark seas

Of this world's bloody strife!

Lead Thou our old Ship o'er thought fogs and shoals,

To Freedom, Justice, Liberty—to anchor-age in Thee!

Surely, dear Mr. F..., you will perceive the great spiritual significance of these messages and the fact that God is raising up His messengers to reveal this light of Love to *hungering* humanity.

I noted also the French ambassador's communication transmitted yesterday through the State Department, the House and Senate, ex-

pressing the gratitude of France for our national celebration of July 14th:

The moral kinship existing between two peoples, equally ready to fight absolutism, tyranny, injustice, brutality, and whose national fete days, both dating from revolutionary times, have the same meaning, which is emancipation. We hope the end of the present conflict may not be far removed. We know that it will not occur before our common aims have been fully achieved and before what the 4th and the 14th of July stand for has been definitely secured—the end of tyranny.

"The Star-Spangled Banner," with its indisputable origin in tyranny, autocracy, and degeneracy, came forth at the time the French revolution was smoldering, and its sentiments are the reversal of the great ideals for which France and America fought—liberty and true democracy.

Let me quote from an article in "The Evening Sun" of August 12th, entitled, "The New Fourth of July—A British view of the changed aspect of Independence Day," by Donald MacFayden in the "Contemporary Review:"

Every historic event is liable to reassessment in the light of later events. A change in the national outlook may at any time set a past event in a new synthesis. When Germany, taught by Nietzsche, said, "We have done with the slave morality of Christianity; we want a master morality with ourselves as masters," England and America replied with the words of Lincoln: "I should not wish to be a slave, as I should not wish to be a master. Whatever differs from this and in the measure of that difference is not true democracy." . . . When Germany offered to cover the world with a scientific Kultur, Britain and America instinctively repudiated the offer. They accepted the chal-

lenge as a new phase of the old conflict against "the world, the flesh and the devil." The battle for a spiritual interior, a spiritual meaning of life and a Christian civilization is not a new one for us. Whatever vitality and dignity the mental life of the English speaking peoples have had for the last 25 years has come from the men who have rallied round this standard.

Dear Mr. F..., this is the "standard" around which I am rallying my spiritual, mental forces. The insistence upon perpetuating darkness and schism, which "The Star-Spangled Banner" represents is, I have been told by some in the highest authority, nothing more or less than German propaganda, working to keep alive the spirit of animosity between England and America. It must and shall cease. True Americans are demanding and taking possession of their spiritual birthright of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," and will share eventually this birthright with their Anglo-Saxon brothers, who, with them, will lead all nations out of the misery and darkness of hatred and animality into the Light of Life and Love, the source and supply of man's real spiritual individuality.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) KITTY CHEATHAM.

274 Madison Avenue,  
New York City.

August 22, 1918.

My Dear Mr. S....\*

I am in receipt of your kind letter and fully appreciate your frankness in stating that you do not agree with the sentiments which I expressed in my pamphlet, entitled, "Words and Music of 'The Star-Spangled Banner' oppose the Spirit of Democracy, which the Declaration of Independence Embodies." You say:

I know of no reason why the spirit of the song has in any way been affected by the present situation. You might even carry such ideas further, and suggest that the Bible be re-written because parts of it advocate tribal wars—or rather sanctions them; that the laws of Confucius be revised for English reading, perhaps, because they were written in a time not analogous to our own.

It is essential, dear Mr. S..., before I enter upon a discussion of the vital subject at hand, which I feel necessitated to do today, both in justice to you and to myself, that I state the *only* premise upon which I base my conclusion, viz., that there is but one Primal Cause—one eternal, demonstrable Truth, Mind, God, Spirit, Immortal Life, immutable Truth, divine Love, which expresses itself in all that is good, spiritual, living, and true. Upon the premise that all causation is Mind and every effect a mental phenomenon, I take my stand. All phenomena, which appear to contradict this divine premise,

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\*This letter is in reply to one received from the Editor of a well-known monthly magazine.



proceed from a false mentality called, in Scripture, the "carnal mind," "the dragon," "the lie," "devil," or "Satan." An understanding of divine metaphysics, or the potency of spiritual thought-force, is absolutely necessary to apprehend and prove the unerring, divine law of Cause and effect.

The "Standard Dictionary" gives the following definition of the word, "divine:" "Pertaining to, proceeding or derived from, or of the nature of God." The close study of divine metaphysics reveals the Primal Cause of all real existence to be divine Mind, the Principle of all real, eternal, harmonious phenomena. Christ Jesus grasped this spiritual fact of *real* being and demonstrated his divine individuality, or the dominion which the spiritual, or real man possesses. When humanity understands the law of eternal Mind or God and yields to the activities of this law of Spirit, whose phenomena is eternal consciousness—dominion, love, joy, and peace—man will behold "a new heaven and a new earth" (Revelation 21:1).

Through the horrible phenomena which the carnal mind is presenting in this world-war, there will come an awakening from the belief in *two* powers, good and evil. The twentieth century thinker will be compelled to choose between good and evil thinking, or the right and wrong cause. There is a little couplet that applies right here:

Every thought is an embryo.

Every word is a planted seed.

Look to it well that the seed you sow

Be for the flower and not for the weed.

The present condition of the world clearly shows that the "seed," or thought, has not been of the Spirit, eternal Life, Love, and Truth, but of evil thinking—hatred, malice, envy, jealousy, lust, greed, and desire for place and power—which results in sickness, suffering, sorrow, and death.

Let me continue the definition of "metaphysics:" "The branch of philosophy that deals with the conceptions or principles at the basis of all phenomena, including being, reality, substance." Again I repeat, that the immovable premise upon which I stand is that God, Spirit, Mind, is the one divine Principle "at the basis of all [real] phenomena, including being, reality, substance," hence any effect that proceeds from this Principle must manifest in quantity and quality the great First Cause.

Opposed to this spiritual fact of eternal being, with its infinite manifestation, or the spiritual universe, which only spiritual man can cognize, is a claim to another cause called, by Paul, "the carnal mind," with its effects, sickness and death. Paul said: "To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Romans 8:6). This false mentality composed of fear, hate, jealousy, envy, pride of place and power, lust, greed, hypocrisy, the carnal mentality is manifesting its phenomena in the present world-war, as it has in all passed wars, whose horrors, ever-increasing, must shock the twentieth century thinkers and awaken mankind to the necessity for an understanding of God's law and obedience to this law of Truth, from which proceeds all harmony. In fact the kingdom of heaven is within the man who is governed by the law of eternal Life, Love, and Truth.

The Mind of Christ, exercised through all who possess it, will bring to an end the warring elements, which are now under process of self-extinction.

The book of Revelation is open for all men to read. Therein is mirrored the phenomena of the carnal mind. Therein is also shown forth the omnipotence of God, good, and the reign of the real man who, reflects the great causation, eternal Life, Love, and Truth. In the Scripture we read:

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live (Deuteronomy 30:19).

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? (Romans 6:16.)

In fact, the Bible when spiritually understood is the chart of Life and unites man to his Maker, eternal Mind. The real man who reflects his Maker is, as a ray of the sun, never separated from the source and supply of his being, but ever radiating the Life, the Love, the Truth which constitutes the real eternal man of God's creating, always visualizing his spiritual sense and always conscious that the kingdom of heaven is within him. Shakespeare said: "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so."

The question of today is, which thought are we externalizing? The cause of the present world-war is unmistakable. Its continuance remains for humanity to decide.

Returning to the subject of this paper, I affirm that the "spirit" or source of the words and music of "The Star-Spangled Banner" has *not* been affected by the present situation, but has caused it. The chaotic condition of the carnal mind, including its unparalleled self-destructive elements, which threaten to involve the entire universe, are the same carnal mental forces that have operated in all the "tribal wars" of which you speak as being of Biblical record.

They who are working, in this hour, from a divinely metaphysical basis, perceive the activities of the same evil mentalities which have always worked through the highest representatives of temporal power, both before and after the Christian era. The more subtle phases of this material mentality are manifesting them-

selves today. "Truth" seems to be "on the scaffold" and

Wrong forever on the throne,  
Yet that scaffold sways the future, and  
behind the dim unknown,  
Standeth God within the shadow, keeping  
watch above His own.

The good in humanity is fighting the final battle for emancipation from evil thinkers and doers. The sharp, mighty rebukes of the master Metaphysician, Christ Jesus, to the materialists of his day, who resisted and persecuted the Truth which he practised and demonstrated, may well be applied to these same offenders today. "Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also" (Matthew 23:26). In other words, think spiritual thoughts which proceed from eternal Mind and the phenomena will be life and peace.

The carnal mind, called in Scripture, "Satan," must be seen and destroyed within and without, individually, nationally, universally, by an understanding of man as a mental, spiritual emanation of the divine Mind, God, before the reality of scientific being, man governed by the unerring law of Life, Truth, and Love, can be comprehended and demonstrated.

The height of spiritual revelation was reached and recorded in St. John's great Apocalyptic vision of "a new heaven and a new earth," which was simply and clearly defined by Jesus in these words, "For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21).

I believe, dear Mr. S...., that the imperative demand for an earnest and serious investigation of the Science of real being, as taught and demonstrated by Christ Jesus, and in this age by his follower, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, will appeal to you.

All the so-called natural sciences, which man has striven to absorb throughout the ages, have

been proved futile and powerless toward the solution of the tremendous issues that today are forcing themselves upon humanity. History is again repeating itself. Those whose dense materialism prevents them from spiritually interpreting the "signs of the times" as evidenced in the present world-war, will be suddenly aroused and sharply awakened by a great cataclysmic phenomenon, as prophesied by the Revelator:

And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven (Revelation 11:13).

To all who are governed by spiritual consciousness, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15). Spiritual understanding and the qualities of the Christ-mind will prove an invulnerable armor to the spiritually minded. Dwelling in the "secret place of the most High . . . under the shadow of the Almighty" they will be impervious to the deadly attacks of the poisonous gases and liquid fire—the phenomena of malice, lust, hatred, fear, revenge, hypocrisy, greed, and brutality.

Why does mankind resist the law of progress and refuse to "keep abreast of Truth"? Because it requires an effort to break the mesmerism of the Adam-dream, viz., a material generation which ends in suffering, sickness, and death. It is apparent that many are being shocked into resistance to the barbarity of the carnal mind and are being forced into obedience to the law of God for self-preservation.

I have received recently dozens of letters from persons of prominence in Europe and America, who represent governmental, academic, literary, musical, and social activities, and I am astounded that none of these correspondents seem to catch

a glimpse of the scientific Principle of being, viz., that Mind, God, is causation, and that the Universe including Man is the expression of this creative Mind. They accept the evidence of the carnal mind as real and offer no resistance to mental influences, which hold them in bondage to sin and death. They seem unaware of the spiritual riches that come with the understanding that man governed by God and conscious of his eternal oneness with his Creator has dominion over all the earth.

Jesus demonstrated his spiritual dominion through the overcoming, the destruction, of all the carnal elements which produce war, sin, and death. That he did not claim to be the only demonstrator of this spiritual sovereignty is substantiated by his own words:

He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father (John 14:12).

He knew that his divine sonship and the ability to prove his power over sin, sickness, and death in their destruction and disappearance belong to all men.

All who today are applying themselves to the study of the Science of spiritual thinking and are assimilating themselves to Mind, or obedience to the law of God are demonstrating, in greater or lesser degree, the royal prerogative of spiritual dominion over evil influences and are establishing or revealing God's law—divine democracy.

For by one Spirit are we all baptised into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free (I Corinthians 12:13).

God that made the world and all things therein. . . .

And hath made of one blood [Mind] all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth (Acts 17:24, 26).

Is not this a glorious Principle for which to fight and finally to demonstrate? Every man-made dynasty and temporal ruler must eventually yield obedience to the law of God—Infinite Mind.

The government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

One of the highest officials in our national affairs wrote me that it was quite proper to have "John Brown's body lies a mouldering in the ground" as the music for a national anthem.

Have we not seen and heard enough of the Adam-man and his activities, which began with Cain killing his brother Abel? Adam came from the ground and his collaborator, the lying, talking serpent, was cursed. What are the mental pictures that are being objectified in the press today? The headlines tell us that piles of mouldering bodies have been used as fortresses of defense by the enemy.

America was founded upon and represents an immortal Principle of Life and Light, and to suggest that her National Anthem should be expressed in music that emanated from the carnal mind with its bitterness, strife, mortality, and decay is preposterous. The calling of the people's attention to dead bodies "mouldering in the ground" should cause the nation to rise in rebellion against such mental pictures and to compel the children of the twentieth century to visualize this mental picture is beyond credence. God will never permit it.

The Christ-man has raised his standard of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The evil thinker can no longer deceive the divine metaphysician, in this hour, with his chaotic phenomena, which has been shown as a bald imposition, having lost its former power to hold the people in bondage to sin, with its results, sickness, suffering, sorrow, and death. On

Christ's banner is inscribed, "Let mental slavery be forever abolished!"

A prominent editor writes me:

I wonder whether it is possible, by any process of reasoning, to change a deeply rooted custom like that of singing a specific national song. I quite agree with you that the old anti-British feeling ought to be eradicated, but I do not feel sure that these people singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" associate its words specifically with Great Britain.

This is another evidence of a lamentable fact, that the people continue to accept time-honored customs, false theories, and defy the law of progress out of darkness into light, out of death into Life, out of the law of the carnal mind into the law of life, love, peace, and joy—the effect of Spirit. Again I repeat, that there is but one Primal Cause, that is real, Mind, eternal Life, Truth, and Love.

The original words and music of "The Star-Spangled Banner" emanated from a false mentality, darkness, and degeneracy and carry with them the mental animus of the carnal mind which perpetuates its influence in discord, death, and repeated wars. The music is an old English drinking song and its influence keeps active the intoxication of the material senses. The words are a tribute to a pagan idolator whose poisonous vine of "myrtle of Venus with Bacchus' vine" must be mentally uprooted and ultimately forever cast out of the Anglo-Saxon consciousness.

The spiritual union of England and America, and there is no other union, is God made. Its attempted disruption through the insistence on the perpetuation of "The Star-Spangled Banner" is a German propaganda and it must and shall cease. It had not occurred to me that this was German propaganda to keep up a former animosity, which existed between England and

America, or Ephraim and Manasseh, until it was told me by those highest in authority.

The law of progress cannot be impeded, nor the struggles of humanity for emancipation from mental slavery be arrested. God will justify His word. I shall continue, like my ancestors, to fight for the establishment of the law of righteousness—divine democracy.

Your statement that I "might even carry such ideas further and suggest that the Bible might be re-written," I refute. The Bible is the inspired Word of God which does not need to be re-written. But to be *understood* it must be *spiritually* interpreted. The divine appointment or spiritual intpretation, with its accompanying spiritual vision, has always been revealed to God's highest representatives throughout the ages, from Moses to the present day. They have risen, through spiritualization of thought, to "discern the things of Spirit."

God, the great Principle of being, Mind, causation, has found a witness for Himself in every age, a mediator, to voice Him and to reveal His presence. Resistance to this revelation of the unfoldment of God's law was encountered by Moses, Samuel, David, Daniel, and all the prophets and culminated in the phenomenon of the crucifixion, when the carnal mind was stirred to its height by the power of Truth, which Christ Jesus demonstrated.

The carnal mind today shows the same spirit of rebellion against the divine demand to rise to spiritual thinking and its spiritual phenomenon—a world governed by Life, Truth, and Love.

The same inspiration which prompted the original writing of the Scriptures, in order that their spiritual meaning may be revealed and the answer to this query of Pilate's, "What is Truth," is being comprehended by the twentieth century searcher for the Science of being. Until this spiritual fact, or Science of eternal Life, is clearly seen and acknowledged, the Bible is a mass of uncomprehended paradoxes.

There are thirty thousand different readings

in the Old Testament and three hundred thousand in the New. Material conceptions of spiritual facts have clouded the light of inspiration and revelation throughout the ages. The world's most eminent authorities have agreed that the Bible has both a spiritual and material interpretation; hence the imperative need to spiritualize thought, which will reveal the priceless riches of spiritual understanding with its wealth of love, power, peace, and joy—man's eternal birth-right.

Dear Mr. S...., will you please pardon me for imposing upon you a letter of such length; but the subjects which your letter has opened could not be briefly touched upon.

Trusting that you will be found among the twentieth century searchers for the Science of being and will aid in establishing divine democracy, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) KITTY CHEATHAM.

274 Madison Avenue,  
New York City.

September 1, 1918.

Dear Mr. W...:—\*

Your kind letter of August 27th, I have read and deeply appreciate. It is most significant, that in the same post I received an excerpt from "The Literary Digest" of August 24th, which is in the form of an inquiry from Winnipeg, Manitoba, as to "Who wrote The Star-Spangled Banner?" When was it written; when was it first sung?"

The Editor replies, that the author of the present words, Francis Scott Key, "directed that it should be sung to the tune of 'Anacreon in Heaven,' composed in England between 1770 and 1775." The Editor adds: "'The Star-Spangled Banner' was first sung in 1814, in a tavern near the Holiday Street Theatre, Baltimore, by Ferdinand Durang." Is it not apparent to you, dear Mr. W..., why I will not, cannot, cease my legitimate warfare for the elimination of "The Star-Spangled Banner" from our national consciousness? It seems especially important to me, and equally so to you, I trust, as Baltimore is your birth-place, that we who are of Southern birth and tradition, need to awaken and quicken the American people to the necessity of ridding our beloved nation of this drunken song which had its first American hearing in a Southern tavern.

If this radical and imperative statement startles you, let me remind you of the admonition of the Prophet Isaiah to

The multitude of all the nations . . . that

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\*Mr. W. . . was formerly a member of our diplomatic service and has represented the United States in various ambassadorial and political matters, in practically every foreign country. He is at present rendering the nation valuable service as one of the official directors of a great philanthropic organization.

fight against Zion [the light of spiritual inspiration upon which America was founded]. Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out . . . they are drunken, but not with wine. . . . This is a rebellious people . . . that will not hear the law of the Lord: . . . which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel. Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression . . . and stay thereon: therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall . . . whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant (Isaiah 29:8, 9; 30: 9-13).

All who heed the warning "shall have a song . . . and gladness of heart . . . the Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard" (Isaiah 30:29, 30).

The bacchanalian, pagan mentality from which "The Star-Spangled Banner" originated in Greece, found its way to England, where the original music was written. It was transplanted to America, and must be finally uprooted and destroyed by those who have inherited and defended the spirit of the founders of our nation, whose ideals and destiny are perfectly expressed in these words:

America, America, thou gavest birth  
To light that lighteth all the earth.  
God keep it pure!  
We love that onward leading light;  
We will defend it with our might;  
It shall endure!\*

For the endurance of the glorious radiance of this light, the spiritual power which animated

---

\*Alice Morgan Harrison.

our Pilgrim Fathers, I shall continue to fight until the battle for the supremacy of right over wrong, justice over injustice, love over hate, and freedom to enjoy "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" is finally and forever won.

I note, with appreciation, that you have read "with great interest" my pamphlet "Words and Music of 'The Star-Spangled Banner' oppose the Spirit of Democracy which the Declaration of Independence Embodies." You also say:

In regard to "The Star-Spangled Banner," it has occasionally occurred to me that something finer and more inspiring might be devised for a national anthem, but it is not easy to change a great national institution of that kind.

I agree with you "that something finer and more inspiring might be devised for a national anthem," but, dear Mr. W. . . . I must take issue with you over your statement that "it is not easy to change a great national institution of that kind." The Founder of Christianity, Christ Jesus, who demonstrated the power of spiritual thought-force over death and the grave, and whose divine standard of justice and truth is the light upon which this nation was established, gave his followers, of all ages, divine authority to uproot and "change"—destroy—every illegitimate national institution, in these words: "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matthew 15:13).

"The Star-Spangled Banner" is not our official anthem, and therefore is not a national institution. It is an excrescence—an illegitimate branch that has been engrafted on the holy roots of our national consciousness. It is a blot on our escutcheon and in no way represents us in this momentous hour. A supreme power has evidently prevented the authorization of a hymn which does not express American democracy.

I quote from the Declaration of Independence:

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America . . . appealing [appeal] to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions . . . with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence.

A noble, sublime, divinely inspired American anthem, upholding our national dignity, and expressing the spiritual ideals upon which we were founded, which ideals according to the law of progress are unceasing in their unfoldment in this new era upon which we are entering—such an anthem would be indeed a “great national institution” and would be welcomed by all patriotic Americans. It is not the desire of the majority of the American people to have “The Star-Spangled Banner” declared official. My profession brings me in touch with the people, and I know whereof I speak. They resist learning and singing it, and this fact foreshadows a demand of the people for an American anthem.

Some of the national anthems of today, according to this law of progress, will be replaced by those that express what America and her Allies profess to be fighting for—spiritual liberation. The development of France through suffering, will be expressed in higher ideals and a new National Anthem. “The Marseillaise” does not represent the France of today. It made an unforgettable impression upon me, when I listened to two thousand school children in France, greeting as many English school children, with “The Marseillaise.” I quote excerpts from the printed translations that were used:

Hateful tyrants, mischief breeding,  
With hiring hosts, a ruffian band.

Their blood-stained banners rear.

The vile, insatiate despots dare.

To arms! Your avenging sword unsheathe.

Is England aided in her struggle for divine democracy, while her people continue to sing:

The nations, not so blessed as thee,  
Must in their turn to tyrants fall,  
While thou shalt flourish, great and free,  
The dread and envy of them all.

“Rule Britannia.”

Do not these sentiments breathe autocracy, self-aggrandisement, and pride of power?

No truly “great national institution” would be susceptible of “change” because it would be logically a part of the immortal principle of “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness” which America, in her divine conception, expresses. America is an immortal ideal. We do not hear the people clamoring to change the Lord’s Prayer, or the Declaration of Independence. These imperishable documents are great universal, as well as great national, institutions.

Only America could have brought forth the Declaration of Independence, for she, alone, of all the nations, apprehended her divine destiny and was spiritually anointed and prepared to give it birth. Its spiritual interpretation is what is needed at this hour of reconstruction. The good in humanity will fight for and will preserve the spirit of divine democracy which the Lord’s Prayer enunciates. The world will never be made “safe for democracy” until men have been sufficiently purified, by suffering, to know themselves and their brothers as children of the one Father, one Creator, God. Then can they say in unity, and intelligently understand the meaning of its sublime import—“Our Father which art in heaven.”

The work of the individual States of this nation, precedent to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, must serve as an example to the world today, as a world reformation is at hand. The leavening of Truth, the longing for spiritual freedom in individual man, gradually became a unified state of consciousness, and Virginia, in June, 1776, set the example for this nation, by declaring herself free and independent. She sounded



the first great note in our national call for freedom. She was freedom's missionary who first rang our spiritual Liberty Bell. Names are symbolical and of vital import, and Virginia, whose name symbolizes purity, rose in fulfillment of God's law to her God-appointed mission. Maryland, her sister State, must rise at this great hour of world wide purification and claim her legitimate place in the reborn consciousness which is coming forth.

Massachusetts stood by the side of Virginia in her pioneer struggle, and I can conceive of no more inspiring picture in the history of any nation, than the gathering together at the signing of the Declaration of Independence of those great patriotic fighters for liberty; Adams—and Franklin (by birth) representing Massachusetts; Washington and Jefferson representing Virginia. At that moment there was no North and no South. All sectional and other differences had vanished in the one great purpose that lay before them—the foundation of the great Republic, whose light of spiritual democracy should be kept undimmed, as a beacon light for all men and nations to follow. Their first efforts were for the establishment of national independence. Jefferson expressed it in the following words: "Hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man." Just here, it is well to remember that Jefferson labored unceasingly for the institution of a law to "give freedom to all who should thenceforth be born in slavery."

We have arrived at a moment when this tyranny must be discerned in its true meaning. Mental slavery must be finally abolished, and this is the work, at this hour, of the *spiritual crusaders* for spiritual liberty. It means the destruction of every stone in the temple of *material thinking* with its phenomena, sin and death, and the revealing of the true temple "whose builder and maker is God"—spiritual thinking, with its phenomén, eternal Life, expressed in a spiritual universe.

Had Lincoln listened to and obeyed the sug-

gestion that it was "not easy to change a national institution"—human slavery—he would have impeded the revelation of this wholly spiritual building, or divine democracy, to which our nation must attain. The great liberator, President Lincoln, knew that the second great struggle for liberty was at hand, and that the blow for freedom from human slavery must be struck. He did not falter nor fail when his tremendous test came. He solemnly resolved that:

This nation under God should have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, should not perish from the earth.

The spiritual animus which moved him to act remains an *immortal presence* operating through humanity to free America from servitude to the carnal mind which is "enmity against God."

My sense of spiritual continuity impels me to quote these words of Mary Baker Eddy, the spiritual emancipator from *mental slavery*, who stepped into the arena of conflict as we were approaching our third and *final* struggle for freedom, at this momentous hour in our national history.

God has endowed man with inalienable rights, among which are self-government, reason, and conscience.

The history of our country, like all history, illustrates the might of Mind, and shows human power to be proportionate to its embodiment of right thinking. A few immortal sentences, breathing the omnipotence of divine justice, have been potent to break despotic fetters and abolish . . . the slave market; but oppression neither went down in blood, nor did the breath of freedom come from the cannon's mouth. Love is the liberator.

Legally to abolish unpaid servitude in

the United States was hard; but the abolition of mental slavery is a more difficult task. The despotic tendencies, inherent in mortal mind and always germinating in new forms of tyranny, must be rooted out through the action of the divine

Mind (Science and Health, pp. 106, 225).

Just here, dear Mr. W. . . . long after the midnight hour, I put aside my pen to finish this letter in the morning, September second. This morning brings the President's Labor Day message, in which I am rejoiced to see that it emphasizes the very points which have impelled this letter. Permit me to quote the President's words:

Why are we enlisted? . . . Germany, it was [is] now plain, was striking at what free men everywhere desire and must have,—the right to determine their own fortunes, to insist upon justice, and to oblige governments to act for them and not for the private and selfish interests of a governing class. . . . It is a war of emancipation. . . . The soldiers at the front know this. . . . They are crusaders. They are fighting for no selfish advantage for their own nation. . . . They are fighting for the ideals of their own land—great ideals, immortal ideals, ideals which light the way for all men to the places where justice is done, and men live with lifted heads and emancipated spirits. That is why they fight with solemn joy and are invincible. . . . Let us make this, therefore, a day of fresh comprehension, not only of what we are about, of renewed and clear-eyed resolution, but a day of consecration also in which we devote ourselves without pause or limit to the great task of setting our country and the whole world free to render justice to all. . . . The light of a new conviction has penetrated to every class amongst us

. . . and so we join hands to lead the world to a new and better day.

"The light of a new conviction" has indeed penetrated to the very heart of our national consciousness, and its pure effulgence must express itself in a national anthem whose harmony will resound to the uttermost parts of the earth. It must be American in its expression of spirituality and divine universal love for God and man—the fundamental of all great, "immortal ideals" and the corner-stone—or the Rock—Christ—Truth, upon which the building of our nation was begun. The founders of America unceasingly declared for these ideals and in moments of great national stress, never failed to turn with child-like trust to the fountain source of all ideas—the divine Principle, Christ, Mind, eternal Life, Love, and Truth.

I stand immovable in my conviction, that the intrepid *spiritual crusaders* of today are clad in their shining mail of righteousness of purpose, their invincible armor of spiritual convictions, and the two-edged spiritual sword—the Word of God—with which they are mentally fighting, will not be sheathed until evil is destroyed, the world war ceases, and righteousness reigns. It is because of my realization and deep appreciation of the great service you have rendered our beloved nation, dear Mr. W. . . . through your years of consecrated devotion to the "ideals of this land," expressed in your countless national and international activities, that I have written you at length.

I recall with great gratitude the many evidences I received of your courtesy and hospitality in Rome, Paris, and London. Mrs. W. . . . 's graciousness and charm, I shall always remember and treasure. She represented to me the ideal type of noble American womanhood. As the official representatives, you upheld America's standard. This is why I appeal to you to give your spiritual support in the contest for emancipation from the mental slavery to hatred,

fear, animality, death, and all that "The Star-Spangled Banner" expresses. Only love for God—good—for my beloved country, America, and for humanity could move me to take this stand. I am strengthened by the holiness of my purpose; my unchanging, immovable spiritual conviction. With Martin Luther, I say: "Here I stand, so help me God, I can do no otherwise."

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) KITTY CHEATHAM.

## A PROTEST IN DEFENSE OF CHILDREN

### EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS

It has come to me with overwhelming conviction, that I must add a final word of protest, against the determined insistence which has been obvious in these past few days, upon teaching the young children of this nation "all the words," as well as the music of "The Star-Spangled Banner." They who are in authority have announced through the press, that "night classes have been formed for alien children," to teach them—as "their first lessons in English"—as well as to "learn in their own language all the words of the 'The Star-Spangled Banner.'"

I rise, in righteous indignation against the inoculation of the childhood of this nation, with the mental poison of hatred, autocracy, fear, animality—the warring animus that this song expresses. I have the support of large numbers of loyal, intelligent American citizens. My life work, through my art, has been to protect the youth of our beloved country, against the influences, mental and audible, which are endeavoring to dominate them today. In my efforts to impress spiritual ideals upon the children of this country and throughout Europe, I have discovered that the "children of a larger growth," have imbibed the spirit of American ideals, as established by the makers of this nation.

The old fetters cannot be forged anew upon our children, nor the alien children, who come to our shores to become American citizens, obedient to the law of democracy. Their allegiance to foreign autocracy ceases, when they, voluntarily, become American citizens. Every carnal quality (or material thought) which "The Star-Spangled Banner" expresses, is a false stone which can find no place in the spiritual structure,

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or true democracy, which America symbolizes.

Our President, Woodrow Wilson, in his messages, particularly in his Labor Day Message (September 2, 1918) has emphasized the holding aloft unceasingly of the great "spiritual ideals" for which America stands. He has striven to exalt the nation to the attainment of these ideals.

I ask do we, as a nation, honor and are we loyal to our President and are we co-operating with him in his struggles to establish true democracy which will reveal the brotherhood of man and forever end wars? Are we patriotic American citizens if we do not, in every way in our power, support our President in his spiritual ideals? Let me repeat his words:

Our soldiers . . . are crusaders. They are fighting for the ideals of their own land—great ideals, immortal ideals, ideals which light the way for all men . . . where men live with lifted heads and emancipated spirits.

As I am writing this, a letter comes to me from one of the best known editorial writers in this country. I quote his words:

Your "protest" is noble. You are a brave, sincere fighter and your cause is just. I am wholly with you in spirit though it is impossible for me to print anything of this nature. The country at present is under the sway of Chauvinism. The world at present is hysterical, or, as a better simile, drunk. An intoxicated man gets a fixed idea and it is futile to argue with him. He must be humored or he becomes riotous. No matter how sincere you are in espousing his cause he sees in you an enemy if you try to show he is wrong in anything. You remember Romain Rolland, one of the greatest writers of France. His heart was wrapped up in the honor of France, but he wrote that he could not

hate any one. The wrath of the frenzied world fell upon him and no one hears his name now.

Whenever I hear "The Star-Spangled Banner" I see, in fancy, men holding aloft mugs of beer and lauding drunkenness, and the picture is not pleasant, especially when I imagine the shades of these merry-makers in the Crown and Anchor Tavern, laughing at the thought that the greatest country in the world is using their old beer song as its standard. Think of a great, brave knight of the middle ages entering the tournament with the wig of the King's fool on his helmet as a standard! The world will be soon forced to be sober and thoughtful. Then it will listen. The world needs teachers of truth. I thank God that you are one of these teachers.

The world is *now* listening and is obeying the Word or Truth.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1).

By the same post which brought the above letter, came one from the head of one of the largest business corporations in the country. He says:

I thank you sincerely for sending me your treatise on "The Star-Spangled Banner," and in the main, I heartily agree with the stand you have taken. I trust your campaign will gather momentum and effect. If this war should bequeath us a truly national anthem, worthy of our land and its people, posterity would find in that result alone an outcome worthy of the cost. And considering the power of music over the human soul, they would be right.

Lloyd George emphasized the same sentiment in the press today (September 12):

This must be the last war. . . . There

is no compromise between freedom and tyranny, no compromise between light and darkness. I know that it is better to sacrifice one generation, than to sacrifice liberty forever. That is what we are fighting for, and Heaven grant that we fight through to the end.

One of our Government officials writes:

I have just received and read with great delight your beautiful, eloquent, and refreshing exposition of true American ideals, voiced in your convincing protest against the archaic music of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Your sentiments are wholly in accord with mine, as I have often expressed them. The music should be American in spirit and origin.

This war is bringing a spirit of better understanding, of sympathy and co-operation between the hitherto separated, if not antagonistic classes of people, and out of this spirit will come the evolving of a universal democracy. I look forward to enfranchised woman as the chief force which will enlighten and liberate mankind and put an effectual end to war and all of its horrors.

I was a friend of your Uncle Frank's, dubbed "Fighting Frank." . . . I hail you as a brilliant apostle of liberty and send you my hearty salutations on this birthday of our political redeemer, Lafayette.

An American sculptor of national and international distinction and the father of two little children writes me:

I am thoroughly in sympathy with you and the deep religious impulse that must leaven any great movement and such nations as reach the full consciousness. They have entered the Garden of Gethsemane in this great struggle and will be in every way sanctified and bettered by it.

Belgium and Servia and France—and lately England—have reached the condition where sacrifice is simple and natural and easy to all who can have anything to give, that their people, freed and incorrupted, may go on. America has not yet entered this vale of tears; I fervently pray every day that America will suffer and be conscious of a loss, for only in this way can she get any reward as a nation for the sacrifice of her people, as individuals.

A Supervisor of Music, who is also Director of a large orchestral society in a western city, states in his letter to me:

. . . I heartily agree with all you say in regard to "The Star-Spangled Banner." I appreciate your efforts to convince the American public of the great mistake they would make in adopting the above as their national anthem.

Apart from the unsuitability of the words, with the origin of which most people are familiar, the music to me seems absurd. . . . In my capacity of Music Supervisor for the city, it is my duty to saturate the children numbering over 10,000 with patriotism through song, and, of course, am compelled to teach and lead in the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" at all of the celebrations or community meetings. The third verse I have eliminated long ago and long for the time when some inspiring anthem will replace all of the verses of this most unsingable of all anthems.

If it is not asking too much I would like to have a number of "The Protest" for distribution where I know they would do most good.

Here's hoping that a great many more Kitty Cheathams will come forth and have the courage to say what they think in regard to this subject.

I quote excerpts from a letter received from one of the best known church organists in the country:

... I have read your protest with very great interest and I entirely agree with you that the original association of the tune of "The Star-Spangled Banner" must disbar it as our national anthem.

It is to be regretted that our country was so entirely lacking in the matter of good musicians, that this tune came to be adopted.

Musically, it is the despair of professionals who have endeavored to harmonize it with any coherency or interesting feature.

I had at least one great-grandfather in the continental army and my colleagues in the society of the Sons of the Revolution have offered prizes for the composition of a new national anthem, but so far none of those submitted have seemed to be of value.

I thank you very much for the privilege of reading your very masterly article and will be glad if I can be of service to you.

The great leader of the new Czecho-Slovak nation, and a true ambassador of light, which I discerned in a personal conversation with him, wrote me: "I agree with you that this war is a fight not only for political, but for spiritual liberation as well." Of the hundreds of hymns and anthems that have been sent to me for my criticism, the following appeals to me as the most spiritual, the most soul inspiring, the most dignified, and the most representative. This anthem is entitled "Our America" and published by G. Schirmer, New York. It is wholly American and expresses the demand of our President for "spiritual ideals." In this hour we are longing for light. With the author of this anthem I cry out, "God keep it pure!" and with every effort at my command I declare, this

Light shall endure. I quote the first, fourth, sixth, and seventh verses:

America, America, thou gavest birth  
To light that lighteth all the earth.

God keep it pure!  
We love that onward leading light;  
We will defend it with our might;  
It shall endure!

America, America, on-pressing van  
Of all the hopes of waking man,  
We love thy flag!—

Thy stately flag of steadfast stars,  
And white, close held to heart-red bars,  
Which none shall drag!

America, America, faith-shadowed land,  
Truth dwells in thee, and Truth shall stand  
To guard thy gate.  
Thy planted seed of potent good  
Shall grow to world-wide brotherhood,  
Man's true estate.

America, America, the God of love,  
Whose name is ev'ry name above,  
Is thy defense.

'Tis thou must lead the longing world  
From phantom fears to Love's unfurled  
Omnipotence.

I have never swerved from my unceasing efforts to hold aloft these ideals in my art and I shall continue my untiring endeavor to impart them to the children of this new era. A child's consciousness is virgin soil and every seed that is planted will bring forth its fruitage. The spiritually equipped teachers will see the result of their faithful stewardship in the springing forth of the immortal blossoms of love, joy, purity, unity, unselfishness—each constituents of the spiritual armor, which will make our children invulnerable citizens of world-wide divine democracy.

They who are propagating this false teaching

—who are implanting in this receptive consciousness the noxious weeds of “foul . . . pollution,” “rockets’ red glare, . . . bombs bursting in air,” “foe’s haughty host in dread silence reposes,” will reap what they sow. These mental pictures will continue to externalize themselves in war and all for which war stands. But the “light that lighteth all the earth” is dawning upon the American consciousness and will dispel the darkness or false material thinking.

We are the United States of America and our God-made and God-won unity cannot be disrupted by such sentiments, nor can the children of this nation—nor the childhood of the world—be held in bondage to what they express. I came in close contact with thousands of our foreign born children, in work that I did in many of our large public schools. All the serious European problems—anarchy, Bolshevik socialism—are smouldering in miniature among many of these children and young people. They are the living lesson books for their families, who generally do not know English and are unwilling to accustom themselves to conditions which the law of progress and our national standards are demanding of the children.

We do not wish to continue the Bolshevik mentality which will always end in anarchy. It must be rooted out of the plastic consciousness of these children. In its place pure democratic ideals must be instilled. If these children are to become our future citizens, they must become obedient to the laws of our land, and not continue to be subordinate to foreign autocracy.

Let me add one final word, Woe!! Woe!! to all who are masquerading as American citizens upholding democracy, while they are ignorantly or maliciously supporting autocracy. The effulgence of the oncoming Light, heralds the noonday of divine democracy. The darkness which “The Star-Spangled Banner” has so long expressed is *dispelled*, and the new era appears.

New York, September 13, 1918.

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